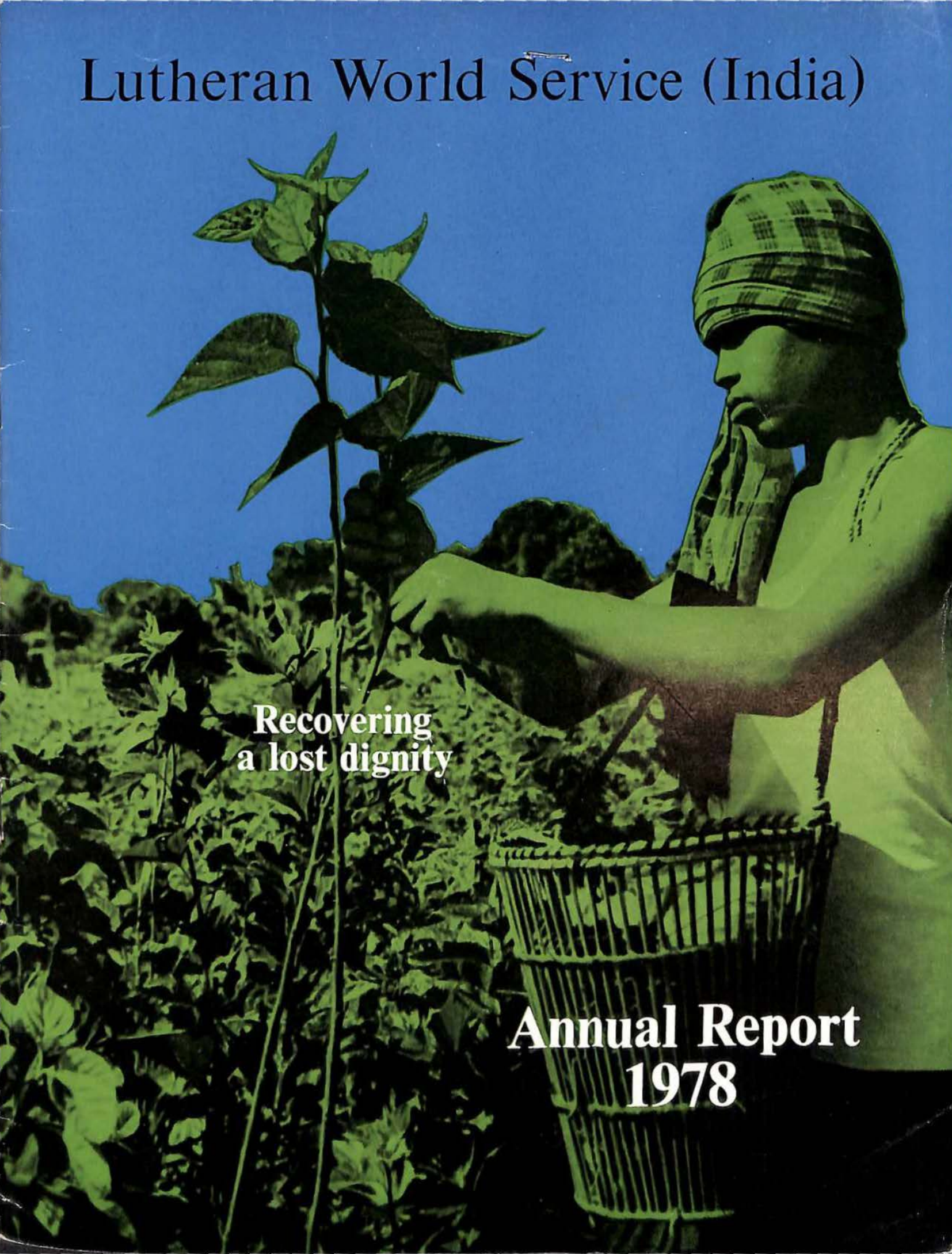
Lutheran World Service (India)

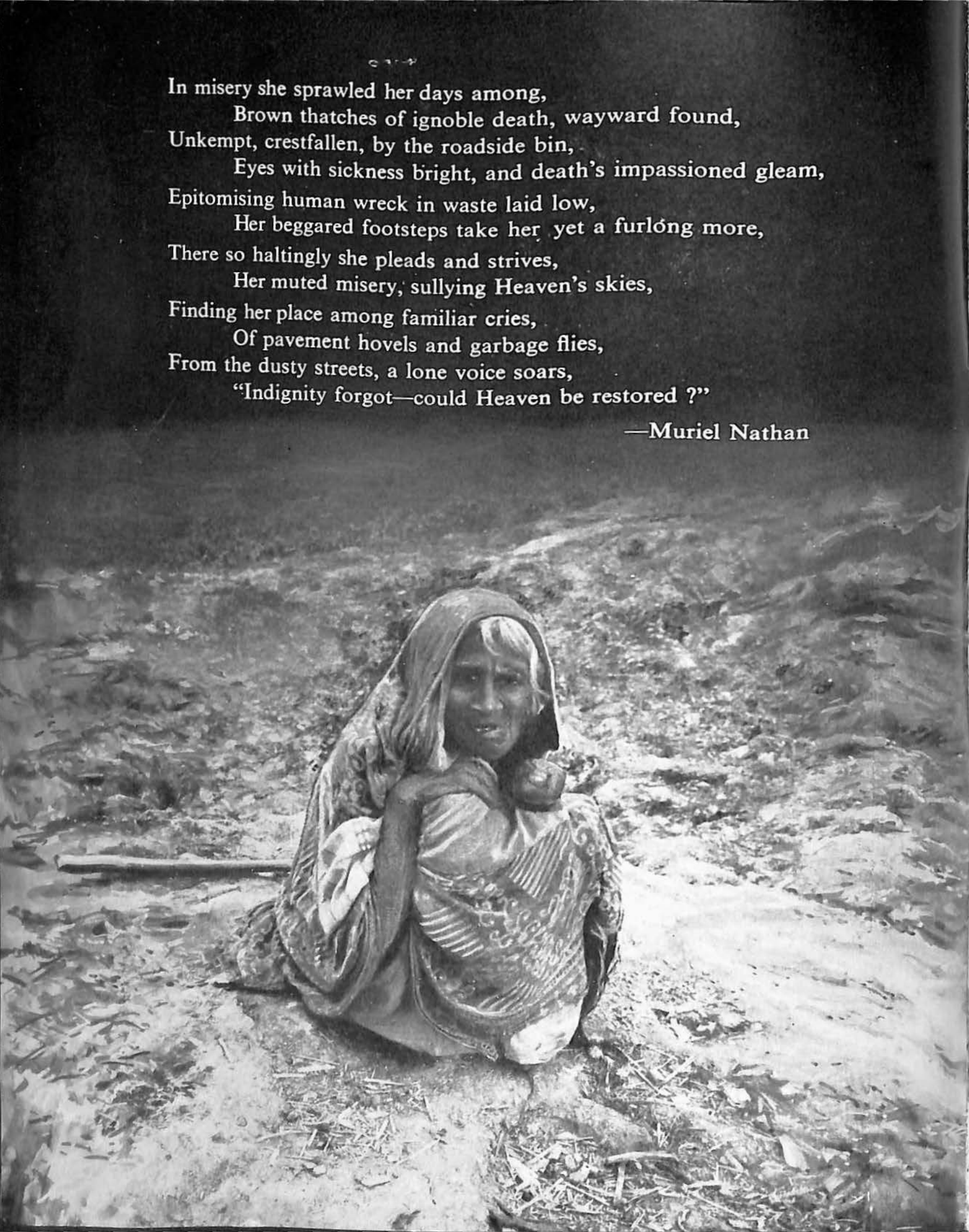


Recovering
a lost dignity

Annual Report
1978

In misery she sprawled her days among,
Brown thatches of ignoble death, wayward found,
Unkempt, crestfallen, by the roadside bin,
Eyes with sickness bright, and death's impassioned gleam,
Epitomising human wreck in waste laid low,
Her beggared footsteps take her yet a furlong more,
There so haltingly she pleads and strives,
Her muted misery, sullying Heaven's skies,
Finding her place among familiar cries,
Of pavement hovels and garbage flies,
From the dusty streets, a lone voice soars,
"Indignity forgot—could Heaven be restored ?"

—Muriel Nathan



ANNUAL REPORT 1978

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To our friends

In the month of April, 1978 an expert team evaluated the LWS programme in India. One of the recommendations of the team was that a PREM CELL should be set up for formalising the process of planning, research, evaluation and monitoring. The PREM CELL is now a reality and we have realised and seen the need for as well as the benefit of such a PREM Unit. We trust it will function better and more efficiently as we gain more experience with time.

There is more than one connotation implicit in the word 'PREM'. "Prem" in the Bengali language means, "LOVE". In the Bengali version of the Bible, 'Ishor Prem' means "GOD IS LOVE" and teaches us that we love because God loved us first. We desire our services to be an expression of God's Love towards mankind. For no matter how efficiently we might plan, do research, evaluate or monitor our programmes if we do not meet the unfortunates, the homeless, the sick and helpless with an underlying, deeper understanding and love, we may eventually fail in our service. If we are able, on the other hand, to bring such love and understanding to bear upon our service, the PREM CELL can be an effective combination of outer expertise and inner 'Prem' motive.

We must thank all friends who support the LWS (India) Programme. Love is also a sharing of what one has. We also thank the Government for their support and cooperation in the year past and for the opportunities given us to work in partnership with people in need.

January, 1979

Olav Hodne

OLAV HODNE

Introduction

A special feature article entitled "Tribals in Revolt" appeared recently in a local magazine called 'LINK'. The article sought to highlight some of the main problems facing the tribal population in the State of Bihar. A few extracts are given below :—

"The most serious problem has been the indebtedness — rack renting land alienation bonded labour vicious circle in which most of the tribals are tied." It is said that tribal exploitation is closely linked with 'dikhu', the outsider enemy who is mainly the money-lender. "Money-lending at exceptionally high rates of interest is rampant, and in most cases it is difficult for the tribal to be free from the clutches of the 'dikhu'. . . . . .What tribals need today is that the land of which they have been illegally deprived should be restored to them and the debts which they have more than paid back in the form of exorbitant interest payments should also be cancelled. Secondly, work should be provided to tribals on development projects and they should be adequately compensated in advance for the land taken from them, as well as other help extended for their resettlement. Lastly, a new forestry system should be evolved which is more sensitive to the needs of tribals than has been the case in the past."

The article subscribes to the idea that the present state of the tribals is driving them towards revolt. But surely there are other options open to them?

Another article which appeared in a daily newspaper, is reproduced in toto for our readers in this report. A perusal would reveal that what is happening "In The Heart of Jangal Mahal" is similar to what is taking place in all areas where the LWS is working in partnership with tribals and scheduled castes, such as Ajodhya Hills of Purulia District, Kaerabani area of Santhal Parganas and Khunti Sub Division of Ranchi in Bihar. In these areas tribals were also exploited and had become dependent on money lenders and landlords. But a process was set in motion three to four years back which leads to the conclusion that there is another way open to the tribal population besides revolt.

We have chosen as the theme for the Annual Report "Recovering a Lost Dignity" for the simple reason that in those areas where we work in partnership with the people, this concept is becoming increasingly evident. The LWS initiated a number of activities in the earliest stage of development. However, the situation has now changed greatly, not the least during the year under review. People as they become more conscious of their rights and dignity are now coming forward themselves and taking the initiative.

A number of factors have contributed to this change of attitude. For example, in Ajodhya Hills tribals who for generations were dependent on money lenders and land-

lords are today in a position to utilise their own land which they are now cultivating. They are becoming free of dependancy and exploitation. This gradual uplift is enabling them to recover their lost dignity and put them in a better socio-economic position. And what is true of Ajodhya Hills is also true of Kaerabani and Khunti Sub Division in Bihar. With this new found freedom the people can now choose.

Training imparted partly through social work and partly by assisting young people to partake in shorter or longer courses of different types in different places, aid them in understanding what the choices are.

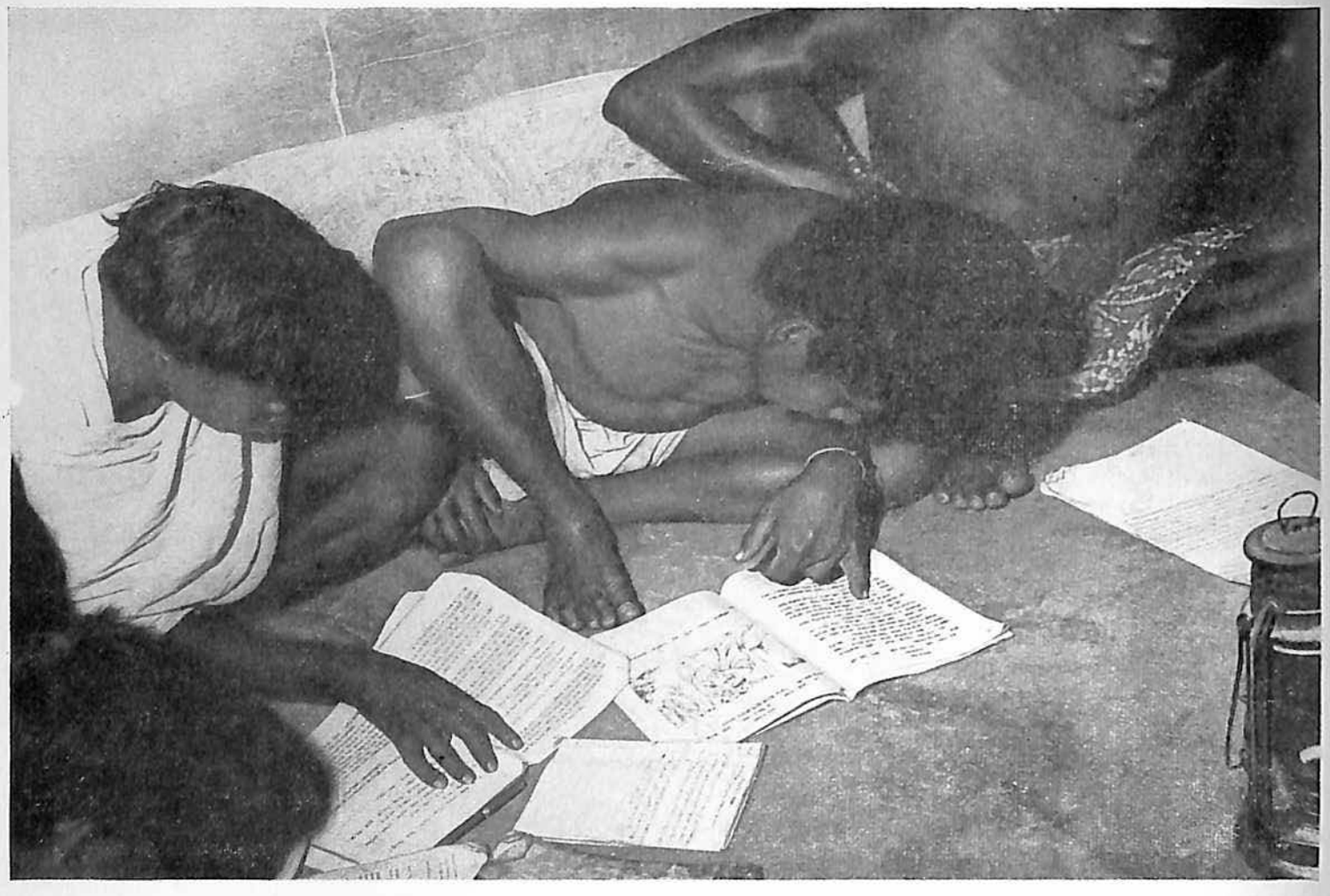
The formation of Village Committees, Associations, etc. through which the people are coming forward as a Body and not any longer as individuals, has created an awakening among them of their basic rights as well as community and individual responsibilities and they have realised that working together they can achieve a number of things they could not earlier dream of.

A pattern has surely been created by themselves which fosters self help and growth. The new spirit developing among them is in opposition to revolt. It is a spirit led by dignity and purpose. We trust it will lead them towards a brighter and better future in all respects.

"In the heart of Jangal Mahal" —inside Jangal Mahal

Translated rendering of the Staff Correspondent's Report, that appeared in the "Bhumilakshmi" — Calcutta, (Ananda Bazar Patrika, dated 16th March, 1979).

Nilmani-Jagat-Tudu, newly wed couple. Their life is new on all counts. Jagat — young and shy, was sewing a Calico shirt. Nilmani showed her class consisting of 8 students — 3 females and 5 males, with 8 machines in the room. A spacious table in the middle of the room, where two students are measuring and cutting clothes. Jagat wore a multi-coloured shirt which Nilmani told has been stitched by himself with only collar brought from outside. Yet Jagat neither raised his face nor looked up. A smiling face, refreshingly young broad vermillion mark in between ,parting front hair, a bold vermillion round on the forehead, the sewing teacher Nilmani cast a bashful look on her husband and said, 'My name is Nilmani Besra. I came here to work and now I am a housewife of this village — Bheladanga." Bheladanga is under Block Ausgram-II. The road to this village runs through dense forest. It is heard that during Naxal-movement, Jagat underwent a term of six years in jail. On return from imprisonment he met Nilmani and love grew up. By that time activities of the LWS had started and Nilmani as a teacher had taken part in it. Jagat and Nilmani became united. Jagat took to some reading and



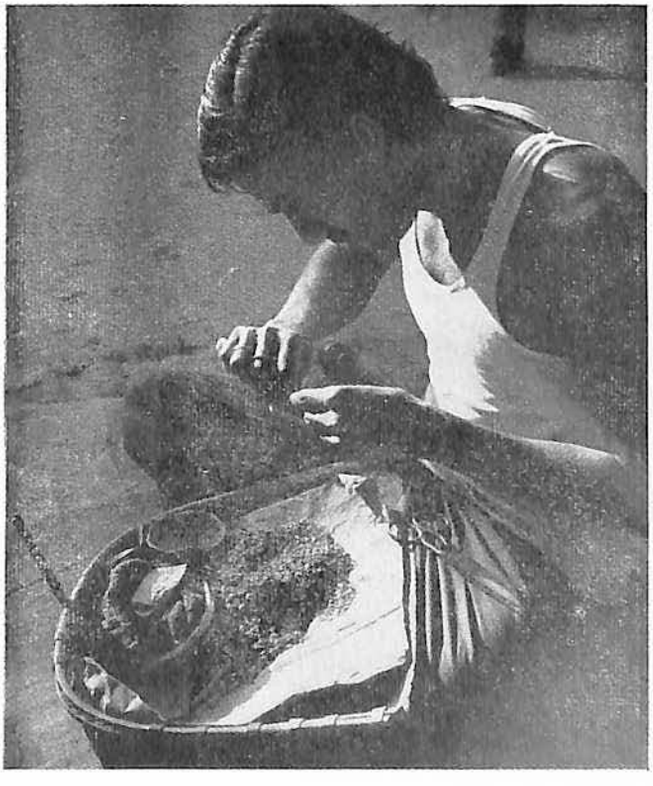
writing in jails and now works as a teacher in the night classes and during day remains a learner in the classes of Nilmani. Theirs is a new life. A social worker of the Unit was saying that they work very hard, they have opened a grocer's shop, in the morning they do bidi making, bring sal leaves from the jungle and go to sell bidis in bundles. Jagat does sewing work and earns around Rupees seventy five per month.

The middle aged Chandi Baski was narrating the days of Naxal movements at Bheladanga and the horrors and anxieties then prevailing. "Police used to come anytime during the day and in the night and male members had to flee to the jungle. The entire jungle area was like this".

"Now we are much better. Standing on an open space we are talking and the huts of the villagers are around us." Flocks of white-leghorns were moving. After finishing her class, Nilmani had come out from the Centre with a bundle of clothes in her arms, exchanging words and smiles with the daughters and the daughters-in-law of the village. Village girls were seen weaving blouses. Chandi said, "Now some cultivation is going on in the real sense of the term." When we entered the tribal villages of Srichandrapur, vegetables of daily need such as pumpkin, brinjal, tomato etc. were seen grown around their homestead. Young villager Gopinath Murmu said that formerly no cultivation was possible in this area, due to scarcity of water. "How then things were managed, think ? The men and women

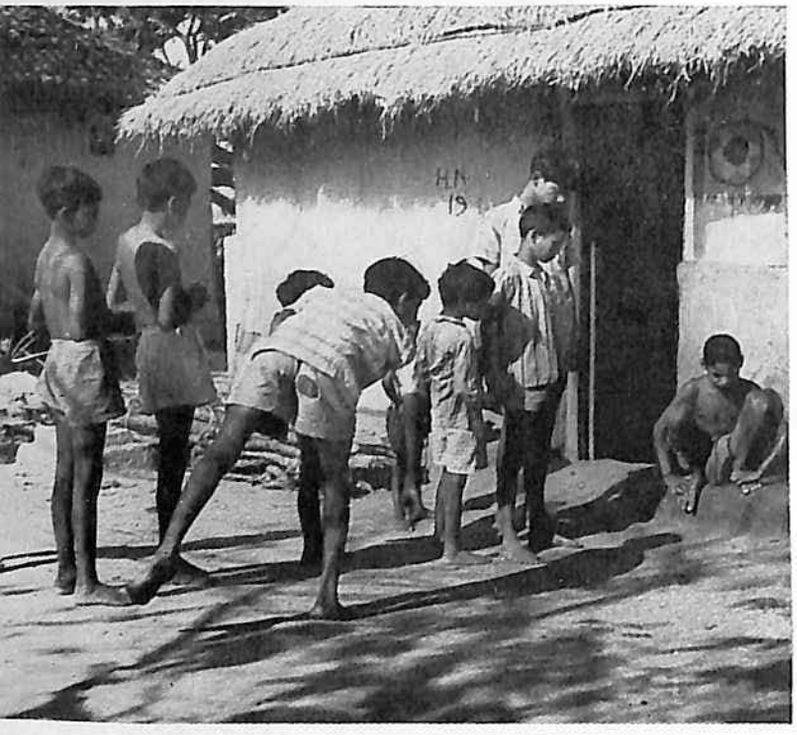
capable of hard work used to go to distant places to work as wage-earners. Some worked as share-croppers. Now each and every one has at least some land that has been put under cultivation. In spite of some loss due to storm the harvesting of rice crop is fair, and we have got something." Though the D.V.C. Canal was passing nearby, the availability of water was nil. Gopinath laughingly remarked, "Where was the pump costing seven thousand rupees?" Lutheran has given that and the water scarcity has eased. This is the real fact.

Water is a scarce material in Jangal Mahal and we are coming to this subject later. We enquired of Chandi (Bheladanga) that when the social workers of Lutheran will not be here, how things will go? In between our conversation, Emely Murmu, a sister nurse of the centre came. This young girl was at the Lutheran Ajodhya Hills unit at Purulia before, and came here nearly a year ago. Chandi's reply was, "When the young ones



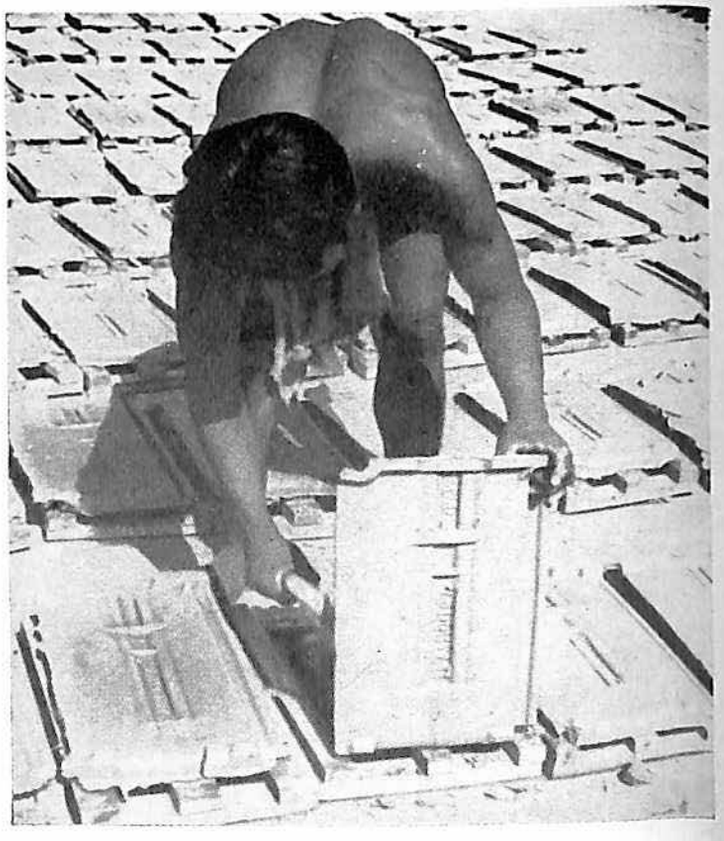
will grow up they will have to do things themselves. Things will have to be self-managed." It became evident that Nilmani, Jagat, Gopinath, Emely and others will do it — it is the compulsion of circumstances, they have got the inlet into the road — the road that leads to success.

Last Saturday we went to see and share the throbbing new life in some villages. I remember to have come to the border of this Jangal Mahal area, nearly a year ago, near and around this metalled road. The Naxal movement was then at a low ebb. The State Government has just launched some development programme to touch the heart of Jangal Mahal. Initial efforts are being made to reach as near to the neglected and down-trodden humanity of this area as possible. This time we penetrated deeper into the place where LWS is trying to win over their hearts. The time for assessing success or failure has not yet come, but it is



evidently certain that a distinct promise with dependable hope has dawned. Let me say about this. Previously among those who accompanied us was the District Agricultural Officer, and this time it is none other than Dr. Jyoti Ranjan Lahiri, Joint Director of the State Agriculture Directorate, whose office is at Burdwan. The main guide this time is Sri Syama Pada Pal, Agricultural Officer of Lutheran World Service, Burdwan Development Project. Let me throw more light on it.

The LWS is an established Social Service Organisation, whose activities extend over various districts of West Bengal. While moving through district areas, the picture of bare-bodied children playing in open spaces around the newly raised hutments in poverty-stricken locality with sign boards attracted our notice. My other colleagues had gone to the Lutherans' Ajodhya Hill Centre, and as I remained away I had the unique privilege of being delighted to go to Orgram, the Headquarters of the Bhatar Block of the LWS, Burdwan. There I have seen how in a disciplined and methodical way, never seen before, various development projects are taking shape, whose only aim and concern is to help the handicapped villagers to stand on their own feet. With this in view, activities should naturally be diverse and multifarious. Dr. Lahiri was saying that in development work, the agricultural department is advising the Lutherans and in return they are also taking the former's help after the recent floods, to make the seedlings and seeds, to reach the distant villages. We are supplementary to each other but this is different from the present issue. What I mean to say is that, in this rural area, a Centre of complex and diverse activities has started. Project Administrator, Mr. J. Simon was not present in the Centre on that date, as he is also in-charge of a similar Centre at Sunderbans and has perhaps gone there. We were introduced to the Agricultural Officer, Sri Syama Pada Pal and among

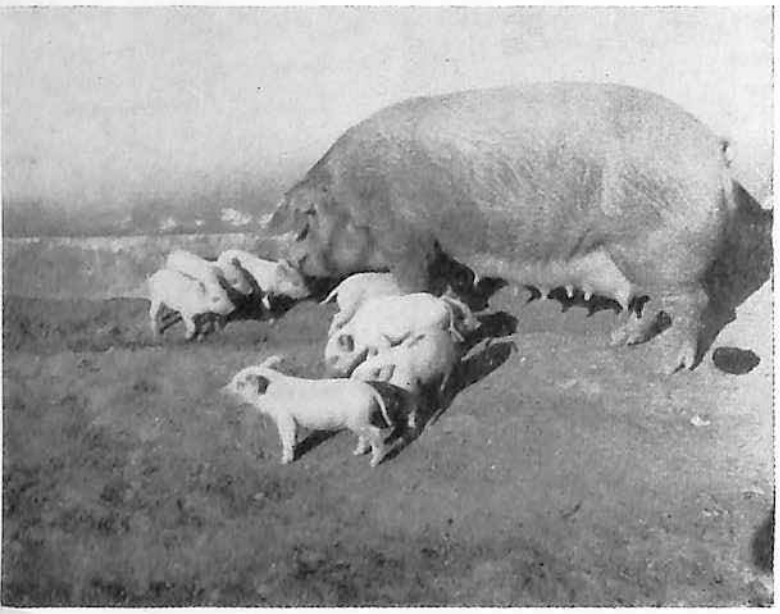


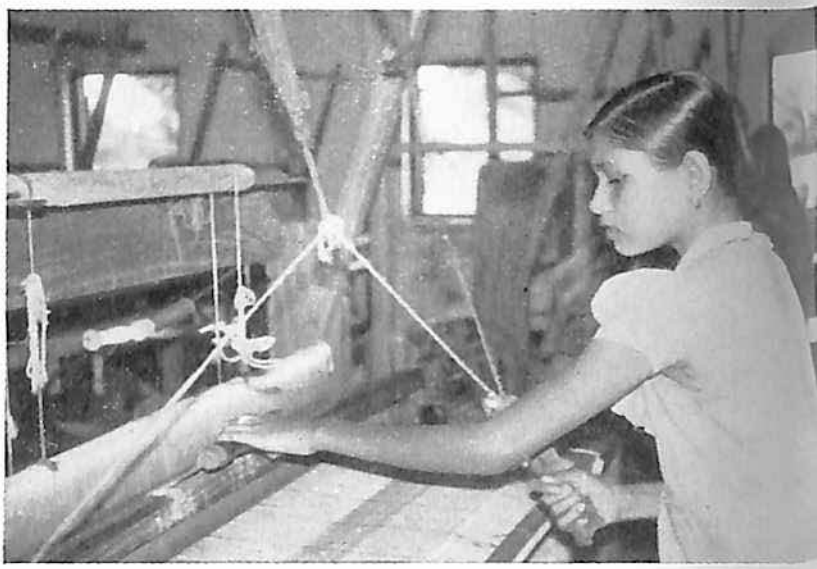
others with Sri Satyendra Nath Choudhury and Sri Deepak Ranjan Ray. In fewer words they said that the activities of the LWS here at present stand extended over four blocks of the Burdwan District, of which three blocks of Aushgram-I, Aushgram-II and Kanksa fall within the Jangal Mahal.

In how many villages of the Jangal Mahal, is the LWS working ? Forty-two villages. How many villages are there in these three Blocks ? Between three hundred and three hundred fifty. The work in this Project was started in 1975. Is there any relation with or dependence on the State Government in respect of finance ? Yes. The brick-built huts of the new model cost around Rs. eleven hundred. Some orders are coming through the Zilla Parishad for raising such huts. Of this, the Government is to pay Rs. five hundred and the balance to be paid by Lutherans. These are all in the tribal areas. Acquainting myself with the rules and procedures, journey through the different centres was resumed. Tiles are being prepared, bricks are being burnt, ferro-concrete rings for wells are being cast.

The out-patient department of the hospital on one side of the Complex was then open and patients, both men and women, from distant villages had come. On that date the Medical Officer, Dr. Biswajit Sen had gone to Bheladanga Sub-centre. On an average, 100 patients come daily, some even from a distance of seven to eight miles. Basera Bibi of Sibda was inside the room and getting her prescription served. On enquiry she affirmed that they come, as they get genuine medicines.

What attracted our attention from the beginning was the abundance of flowering plants. A sizeable portion of the land has been kept segregated by furrows for use as various demonstration fields. Lemongrass has been grown. Sri Pal explained that various crops are first raised here and after testing, the seedlings and seeds are distributed to the poor needy villagers and cultivators. These are mulberries. Potato has been grown, tomatoes are adorning the field. Dr. Lahiri said "Jangal Mahal will produce good mulberries." Maize etc. will be warmly received by the tribals. Sri Pal took us to an excavated pond. Here attempts have been made to show how earth can be removed without disturbing the banks. Young coconut trees have been planted. In the demonstration plot the young ones are working and it is heard that they are being paid at Rs. 4/- each a day. In this way families are being maintained with fooding and clothes. So many white pigs ! Yes, that is the piggery. These piglets are donated to the adopted vilages. These are hybrid pigs. There is a poultry in this centre. Pump repairing shop is also in existence.





Sri S. Pal said that they make for themselves everything that is thought necessary to carry on work in the interior villages and training is also imparted to young entrants in the H.Q. : There are sewing and weaving centres and pump-room. In the sewing centre, six months course is in progress. The girls of the locality are taking lessons from the teacher, Smt. Savitri Chakraborty. The black-board contained figures of cuttings and designs. Lessons are given to prepare shirts, pants, and blouses. She said that many students had gone out of this centre and some had also taken employment in other centres of the LWS. The looms are at work in weaving centre. The trainees earn as much as hundred to one hundred twenty-five rupees per month.

Out from the centre, we proceeded along the path by the field. By the by, the centre has been named "Sevaniketan". The workers of the Sevaniketan pointed out that plantation could not be made in all the fields lying around, as there was no water. This year the tribals reaped a good harvest. Now they sow sesame. Where did the water come from ? Within a short time, it became evident and it was a surprise ! It looked like a mythological achievement

of bringing down the Ganges by Bhagirath. A Canal of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 k.m. long has been dug by LWS. The D.V.C. Canal passes through Salkuni but its raised banks are so high that the field on the sides cannot get water. The local people are poor and have no pumpset and even where it is, the water is beyond their reach. What has been done ? In a space on the bank a brick-built room has been constructed to install the Pump and the water is being made to flow through different channels. The canal is flowing downwards and some portion of it is cemented. As a result of low embankment water is flowing close by the side of the fields. What is the name of the new Canal ? LWS Canal. In this kharif season water was made available and there was a good crop. They remarked, "In the Jangal Mahal area, this is the greatest hurdle", and so steps have been taken to meet this challenge. In some places pumps have been provided to raise water from the bed of the canal or river, in some places ringwells have been sunk, and in some places big reservoirs have been/are being excavated.

On our way out of Orgram, we passed through different centres where some work of establishing water resource for betel nursery is proceeding. In the Linedanga Tribal village in Bhatar Thana, a spacious reservoir—1000 ft. × 175 ft. now stands full to the brim. Pumps have been given to the villagers to draw out water. In kharif season, 36 bighas of land have been brought under cultivation. The land is dry and full of mooram. In an adjacent place, mooram are being raised from the land on a lease from Government. Excavation work for tank is proceeding in the tribal village of Chhora at Aushgram-I. This village is within Jangal Mahal. It is designed to provide irrigation facilities to 96 acres—vested lands will be distributed to the tribals, and aboriginals and everything has been arranged and settled. In each village LWS has placed a social worker and Sri Kartic Sammadar, the social worker of the above place said that, though the D.V.C. Canal was nearby, the land around was on a higher level and so could not benefit from water. This centre is two years old and starting from scratch, the work is progressing on an even pace. Lutheran World Service-India has provided seeds and fertilizers. We have already spoken about Sri Chandrapur tribal village, where Sugarcane has been raised by the Trench Method. The crop in one field was infested by worms, and Dr. Lahiri's suggestion was to use dry cakes of Mohua or Neem. In 1977, one well was sunk here by the Government under the ITDP Scheme, but that did not benefit anybody. The D.V.C. Canal, flowing by its side, caused fluctuation in the water level of the well, mostly to disadvantage. Lutheran World Service has sunk one well and the water so provided being good, people are drawing drinking water therefrom. Formerly they used to draw water from tanks

some miles away. Budhan Hembrom said that, good things had been done — now cultivation was also being done. Once Budhan took part in Naxal movement. Jahar Murmu is spreading straw over his thatched roof. There is a bee box in his court yard. Yes, given by the LWS. They give honey to the children and also sell some in the market. Now the villagers have got pumps, they are cultivating their own lands, and when they can work in their own field, why will they labour in other's field ? Some men still go but after completing work in their own field.

On the way is Raghunathpur, where LWS are raising School. Brick walls have come up to some height. In the Chua village Persian-wheel has been fitted in the well, and 10 such wells will be sunk there, and each well is designed to provide irrigation to $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 acres of land. Wells have been sunk and Persian-wheels will be fitted. Social worker, Sk. Sahullah comes from Orgram and now lives in Chua. Laghu Murmu was showing all these with enthusiasm. Gosai Kisku happens to a Chieftain. He forsees the advent of good days. One well has yielded water. Potato, raddish and brinjal have also grown. Some potatoes will have to be sold as otherwise they will rot with the heat. According to Dr. Lahiri, potatoes will remain in good condition, if kept with garlic or small onions. Chua is in Kanksa Thana. At last we reached Bheladanga. Bheladanga is the centre of activities for Jangal Mahal and this sub-centre's work extended over 42 villages, the nearest of which is Majuria, and public transport can be had there, otherwise the place is within the woods. Bhaskar Nag is in charge of this Centre and frankly admits that the work is to his liking. He is a Science graduate. Bheladanga is the miniature of Orgram. Weaving Centre, Sewing Centre, Bee-keeping Centre, Demonstration Centre —all are there. The rooms and office are like a picture. In addition, there is electricity and a training centre. Bhaskar Nag said pigs and fowls have been donated to the villagers —even bulls and ploughs. A T.V. set adorns the Community Centre. Sri P. B. Pakhira is imparting instructions on bee-keeping. Honey from different flowers—Neem, Drumstick etc. is being collected. Weaving teacher is Sri Ratish Debnath. Chandi Baski is extracting honey, up to one kilogram a week and fetching around Rs. eighty per month. Bhasker said, in the early days there were many disadvantages with Police Camp on all sides. Now the picture is quite different.

Some social workers reside at Bheladanga and visit the adjoining villages. I have also gone there. Rangakhila is a tribal village where there are mounds of grey earth looking like hills. What is the matter ? A social worker, Shri L. N. Kundu, was supervising work. A pond was being excavated, but the number of labourers was few. A wedding ceremony was on somewhere nearby—drums

were sounding ; on such occasions men were not available for labour, but the picture was quite different on other days. This place would be crowded with workers.

Ponds as large as 300 square feet and 20 feet deep are being dug. And water ? All the rain in Jangal Mahal would flow into it. Water would be drawn from the Kunur Canal, and rain water would also benefit us.

Moving ahead a little, we came to Kandor, with a light bridge built by LWS. Water from Kandor is being lifted by two pump sets. Formerly, it was a deep forest. Lands vested in the Government have been distributed. With the water so provided, tribals are raising wheat, sugarcane, pumpkin, sesame and potato. Some sugarcane is still in the field. People owning considerable areas of land also reside in Rangakhila. The tribals used to work as wage-earners in these flelds, and now with their land and irrigational help, they are striving for a new life. I could not go further. Amjuruli village is at some distance. Schools have been built and wells have been dug. Amjuruli is under Aushgram Thana, and was once the hotbed of the Naxalite movement.

The Pavement Dwellers

A former refugee once related the following story. Several years back he had come across the border of erstwhile East Pakistan together with a man who was fairly well off and belonged to a middle class Brahmin family. In those early days of uncertainty, when it was hard to know where the next meal came from, this man assisted him in every possible way. As time went by they drifted apart and went their several ways to find a living. As it happened the younger man found a good job and did quite well for himself. One day while walking through the streets of Calcutta he came across an old beggar sitting on the pavement, whom he immediately recognised as his 'co-traveller' and friend. He was shocked beyond words to find him in that deplorable state, and left quickly for fear of being recognised. But he could not escape the memory which haunted him night and day, till finally he decided that he must do something to help him. So he returned with the intention of assisting him so that he could stand on his feet again. He hastened along the way, but to his dismay when he arrived at the old beggar's haunt, he found the place vacant. The beggar had disappeared. On enquiring around he was told that the beggar had passed away.

This is the Fate of many who have taken shelter on the pavements and are in the same situation. Most of the pavement dwellers have seen better days. A great number of them are refugees who have had to flee their homes, leaving behind all their belongings. They end up on the streets of Calcutta as their only means of survival.

The LWS pavement dwellers programme is now running in its third year. During the past year the programme has taken on a new dimension. Finally land for resettlement has been allotted in the Salt Lake City area for 750 families. The project started in the middle of the year and by the end of 1979, 750 families will be settled in individual houses, with proper sanitation, sufficient drinking water supply and other amenities. Almost 100 percent of them are former refugees and by trade fishermen. They are receiving fishing rights for fishing in the large Lake just next to the settlement. We hope this Colony will prove to be a Model for settlements of this kind.

The pavement schools numbering 17 have also entered a new phase and shown good progress. For the first time in history the pavement dwellers' children have taken part in the Annual Sports events together with other public schools in Calcutta and done quite well. It means that a new awareness is being created even among these children and their parents. They are slowly becoming conscious that they are a part of society and there is hope for a better future for the children.

Another development is in the field of handicrafts. At the Entally Centre for girls there are now morning and afternoon sessions. Trainees attend in the morning and those who have completed training and entered the production stage attend the afternoon sessions. Apart from enabling them to earn a livlihood to sustain their families by the sale of the goods they produce, they are definitely acquiring a sense of pride and a feeling of security.

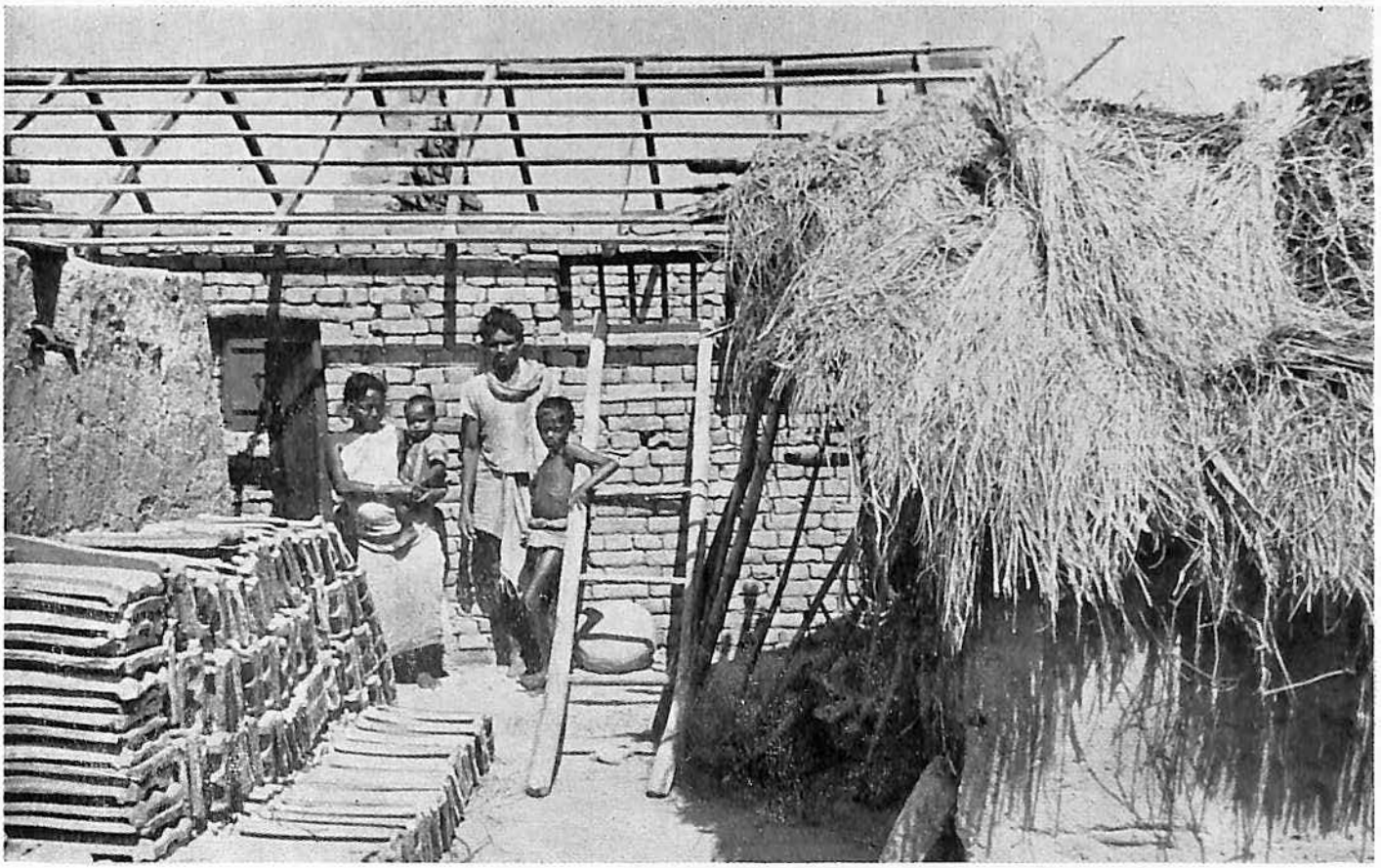
The embroidery section among the girls

continues to receive orders for supply to establishments for which they receive a working charge. The Batik products have shown marked improvement in both design, colour and quality. They are now receiving more orders than they can cope with for the time being.

In 1979 the opening of a new Production Centre providing facilities for 100 women who have completed training will enhance employment opportunities for the women.

The Medical work has continued for the different medical centres and the main emphasis in 1978 has been to develop a Community Health programme in connection with these centres. In this process hygiene, cleanliness, and nutrition are emphasised even among the pavement population. A project has now been initiated and will be completed next year of sinking 17 deep tubewells in the places where pavement schools are now being run. All these schools are right in the midst of pavement dwellers concentrations and will to a large extent benefit the pavement dwellers.

Resettlement of the Landless and Homeless



Resettlement of the landless and homeless is a continuation of the ongoing programme undertaken in collaboration with the State Government over the last three years. A total of 13,782 families have till now been resettled out of which a total of 4,169 have been resettled in the year under review. The majority of the resettlers are refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan who have had no chance of settling themselves, nor been given resettlement aid before. They have been living along the roadsides or in open bazars or market places, railway stations and alongside the tracks. While the majority of them are refugees, a part of them are also people who have lost all their land through erosion by floods.

Assisting these people we have felt that we are reaching out to the most unfortunate, disillusioned and destitute people in the rural areas. Their condition in one way is different from that of tribal people. They are not dependent on landlords and money lenders nor do they work as bonded labourers. But they are as poor if not poorer than the tribal people. Many of them have left their homes and come to West Bengal where they have been struggling

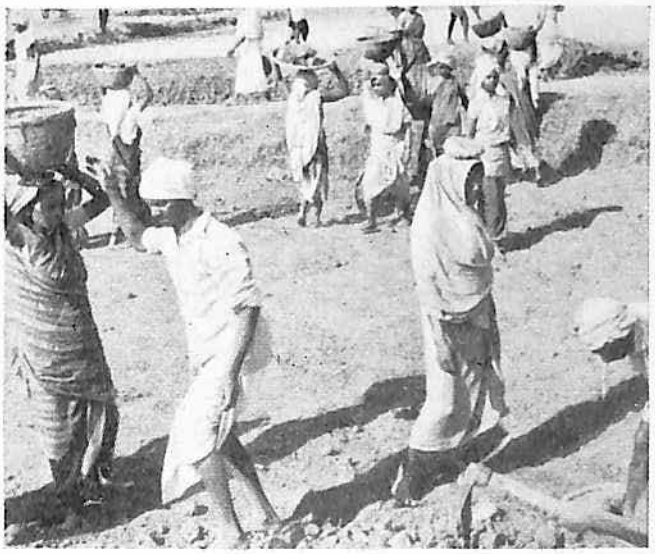
to keep themselves alive and take care of their children. It has been a hard and often degrading life for them.

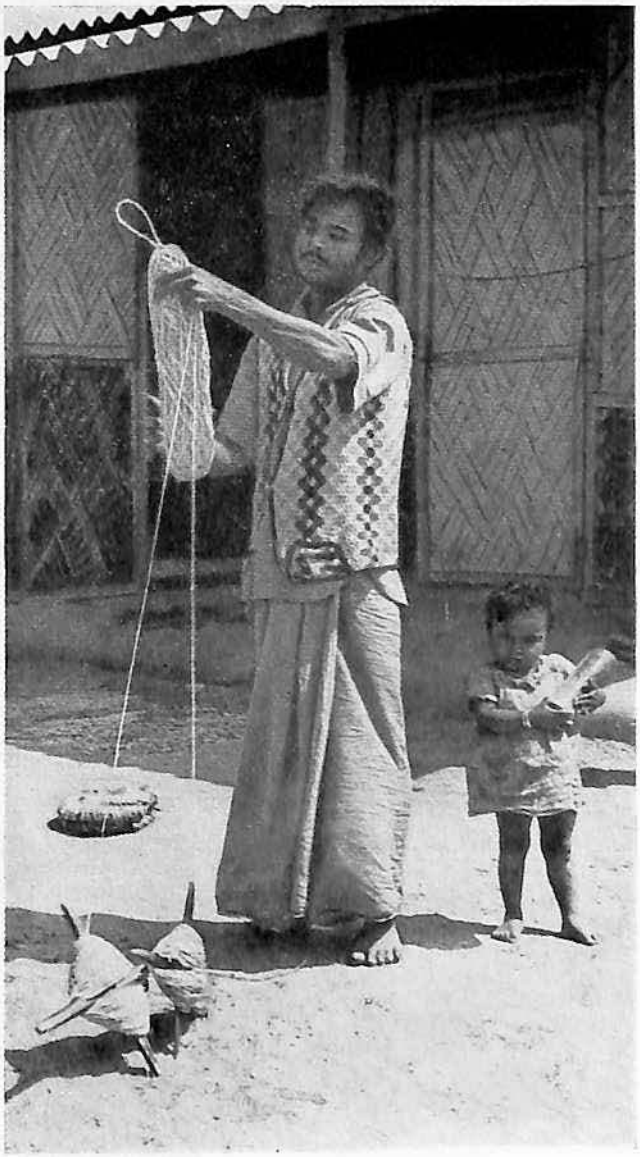
The Government of West Bengal is allotting housing land individually to the resettlers and in certain cases also some agricultural land. The government is also contributing part of the cost of the houses as material aid. There are now a great number of small and a few large colonies scattered over the Districts of North Bengal, Murshidabad and Nadia. Housing resettlement means essentially that a new community is being built up. The people are removed from the places where they have been previously squatting before being resettled. From having nothing to call their own to suddenly finding themselves in possession of a plot of land and their own house has a tremendous psychological effect on the

settlers. It provides them with a new sense of security and self respect. They no longer feel like outcasts or drags on society. New avenues of self support open up to them. They become eligible for bank loans for individual business or for joint projects which they may wish to undertake as a group.

During the year under review several self help projects were initiated within the scope of the settlements differing in type from area to area. The LWS has been assisting with certain infrastructure facilities such as drinking water supply, sanitary arrangements and the establishment of small scale industries.

Community projects have also been taken up, such as road buildings, school construction, establishment of weaving centres, dairy farming, horticultural projects, etc. A number of these projects are income generating, enabling the people to liberate themselves from the curse of poverty and ignorance.



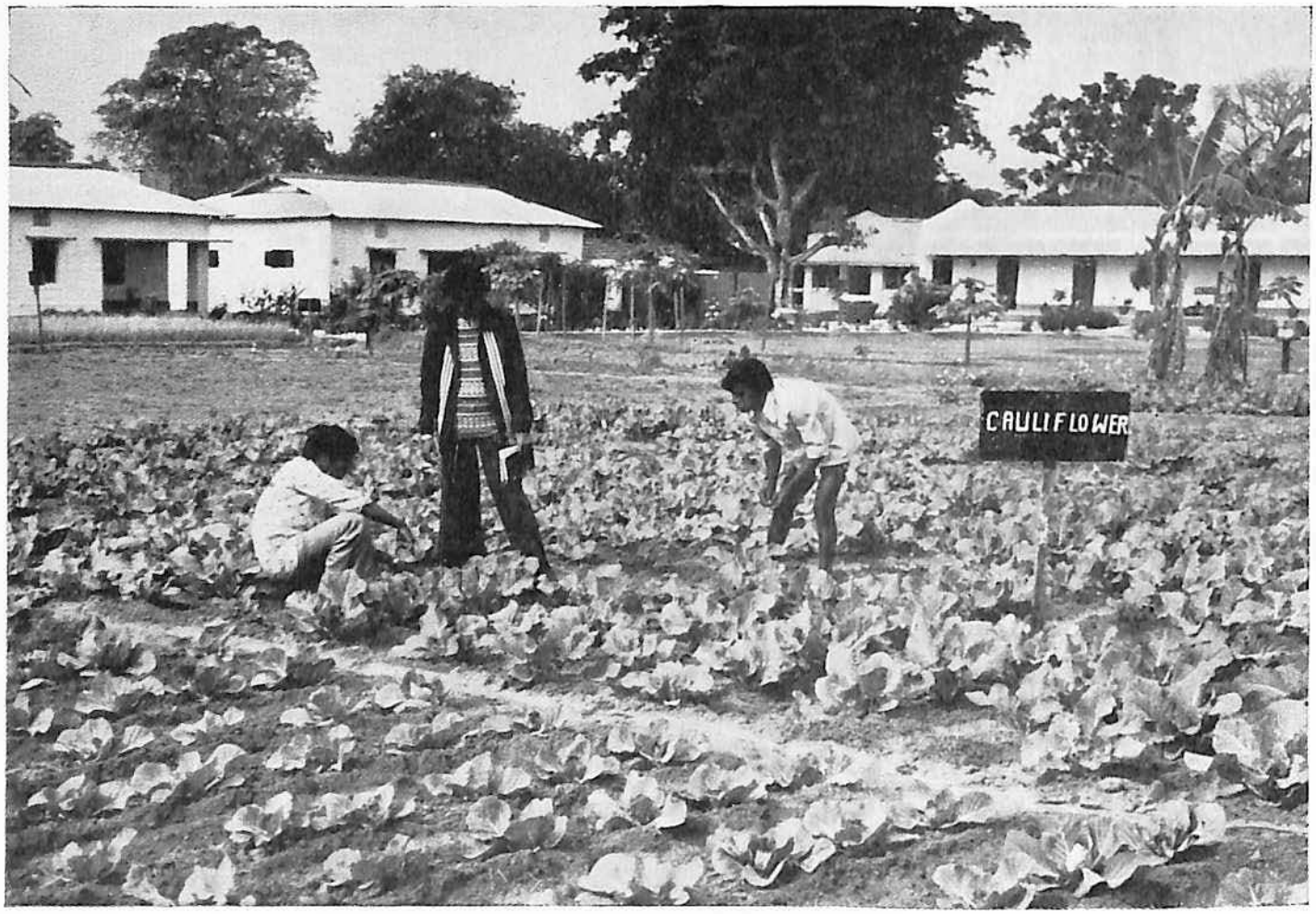


1978 in Retrospect

The LWS is engaged in development activities in several Districts of West Bengal and two Districts of Bihar.

In Bihar there are Church Related programmes in the tribal areas of Ranchi and Santal Parganas. In Ranchi the main concentration of tribals belong to the Munda and Oraon tribes, while the Santals populate Santal Parganas District. The main problem for the tribals of these two Districts is water scarcity. Both Districts are drought prone and generally known as "one-crop" areas. When the monsoon fails there will be no crop or very little, causing added suffering to the poor. Naturally the starting point for development programmes would relate to agricultural development creating irrigation facilities through different methods such as drilling for water, digging of ring wells, sinking of tubewells wherever possible and construction of dams and jore-bundhs. Alongwith such activities which are all carried out in partnership with the beneficiaries, agro-motivational and training programmes are an on-going process.

In the Kaerabani programme area of Santal Parganas the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (NELC) has started a combined agro and Bible school. This school is agro-oriented, especially after the agro development project was initiated at the beginning of 1978. Completing the course the students now have the possibilities to put into practice what they have acquired in the course, both theoretical and practical.



In the Khunti area of Ranchi District the demonstration farm at Sarnatoli has extended its programme to nearby villages and forms the core of the development activities. Demonstration-cum-seed farms have been extended to the villages and joint farming has taken shape in some places.

The tribal projects in the western part of West Bengal are concentrated in the districts of Purulia and Burdwan. The starting areas of these programmes are Ajodhya Hills of Purulia and Bhatar Block of Burdwan Districts. In both these areas the LWS is concentrating their efforts on the consolidation of the programmes, on education and training and acting generally in an advisory capacity.

During the year under review activities have been stepped up in extension programmes in the Balarampur area on the plains adjoining Ajodhya Hills in the Districts of Purulia and the Jangal Mahal area in the north east of Bhatar in the District of Burdwan.

Siliguri, at the foothills of the Himalayan mountains and the gateway to Darjeeling, known as the queen of hill stations of India, is the centre of the LWS projects in North Bengal. In North Bengal the sericulture programme with its different facets, the growing of mulberry plants, rearing of cocoons, spinning of yarn and weaving has proved to have good economic potential. The medicinal plant pilot projects will aid

even persons with the smallest land holdings to have a steady income throughout the year.

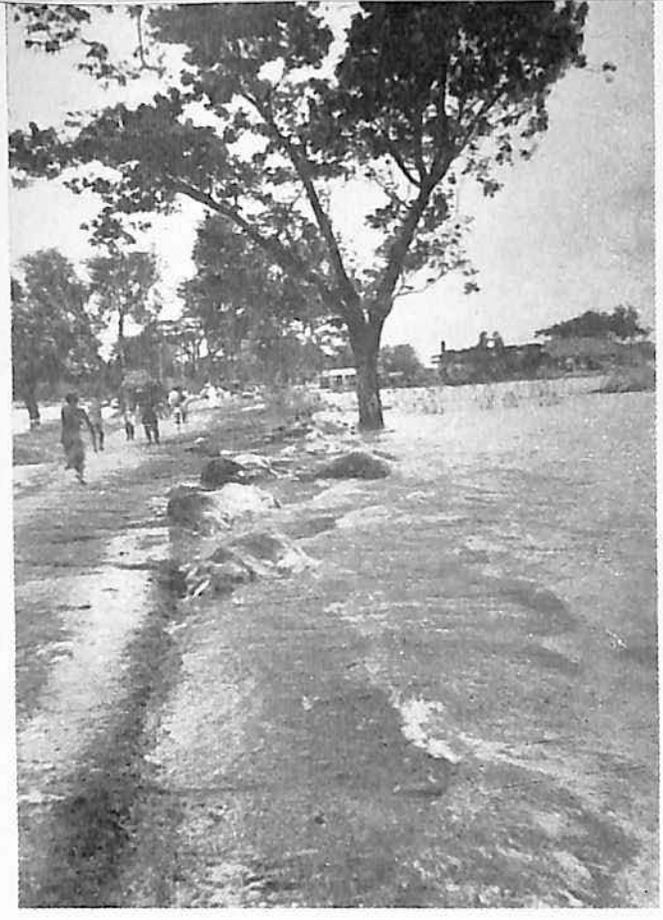
In all projects there are certain needs being met, such as supply of drinking water, establishment of different types of small scale industries, introduction of adult literacy courses, construction of primary schools and other activities.

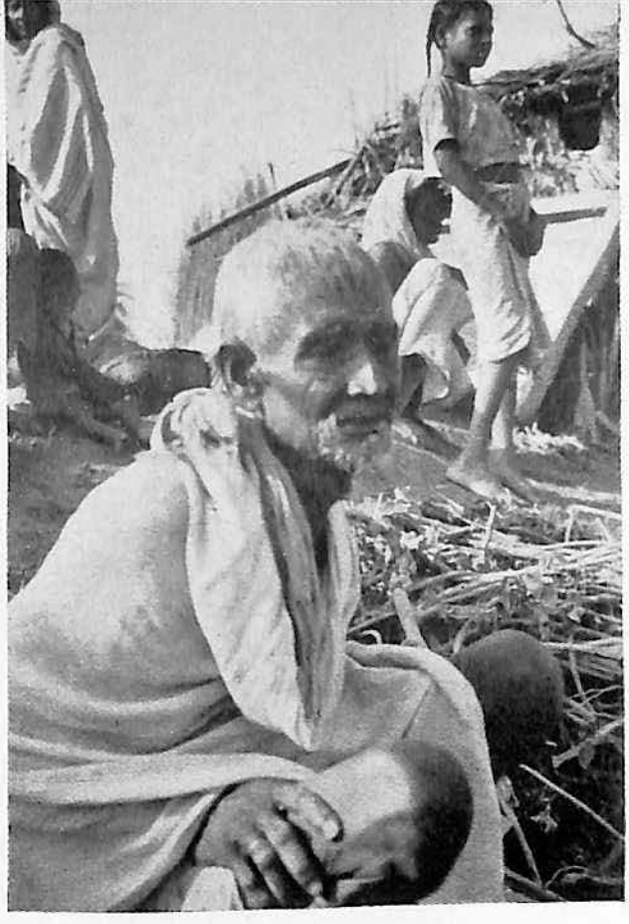
The LWS project area might give an impression of being very scattered. However the project areas are easy to reach for visitors having some time at their disposal. There are daily airflights to Siliguri, North Bengal and Ranchi and train and road connections from Calcutta linking up all project areas.

Natural Calamities

Cyclones, Floods, Drought, Refugees were words frequently found in the Indian Newspaper headlines in 1978. There was not a day that staff from the L.W.S. Emergency Department were not involved somewhere alleviating the effects of these Calamities which brought so much suffering to the people in India. They moved from rebuilding smashed houses after the 1977 cyclone in Andhra Pradesh, to assisting refugees in West Bengal, to aiding thousands of Flood victims in North Bihar and West Bengal with Food, Clothing, Shelter and Medical Care.

The cyclone of Andhra Pradesh and the West Bengal Flood of September 26 were more destructive than anything on record over the past 100 years. At times, the task was so large that most of the L.W.S. staff head to be mobilised to render aid. Aid was given to all in need, with priority for the poorest and hardest to reach. What was provided, aided those recovering to suffer less and recover faster without getting bonded to money lenders etc., to whom they have had to turn for help in the past.



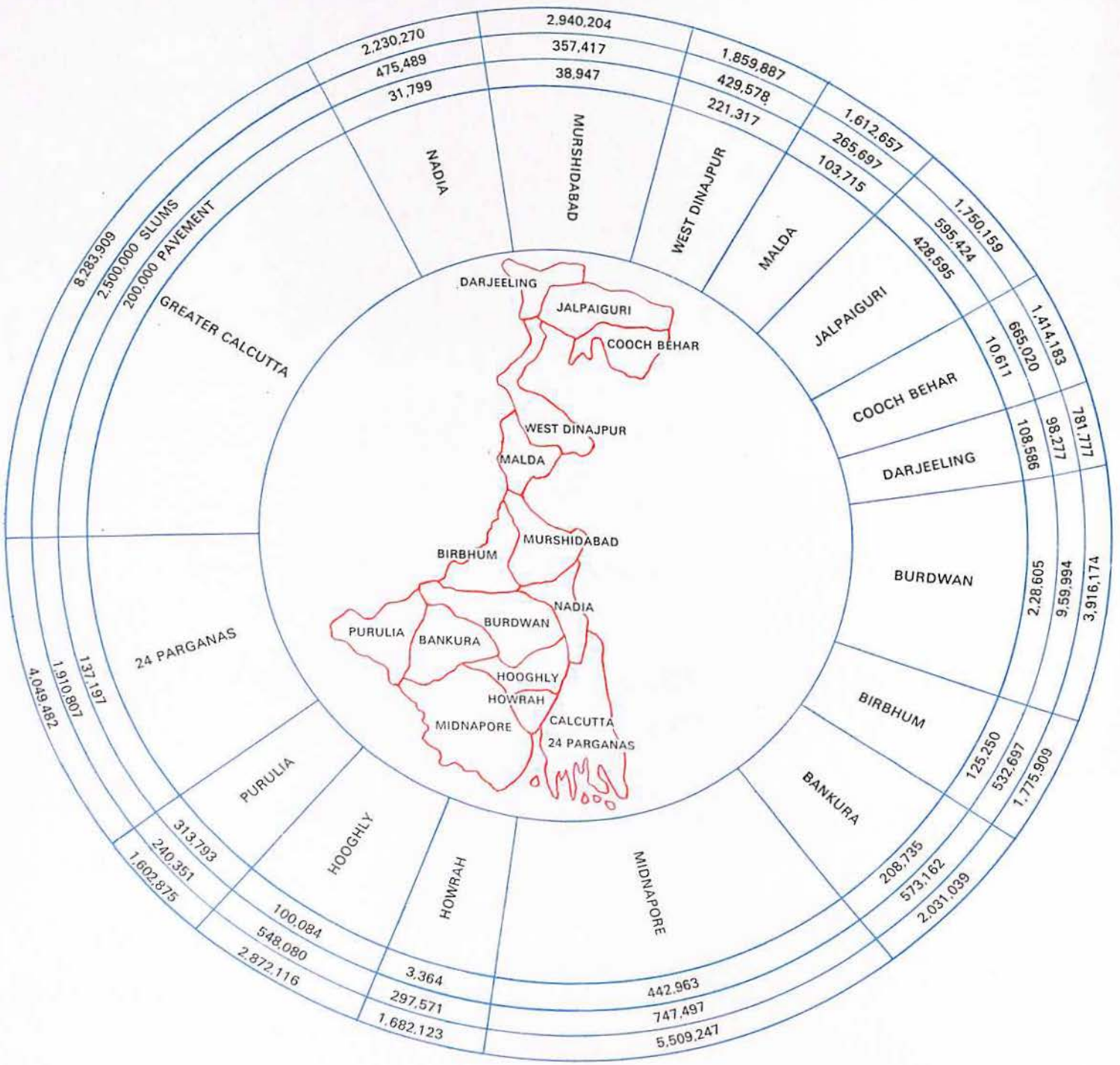


ROUND-UP

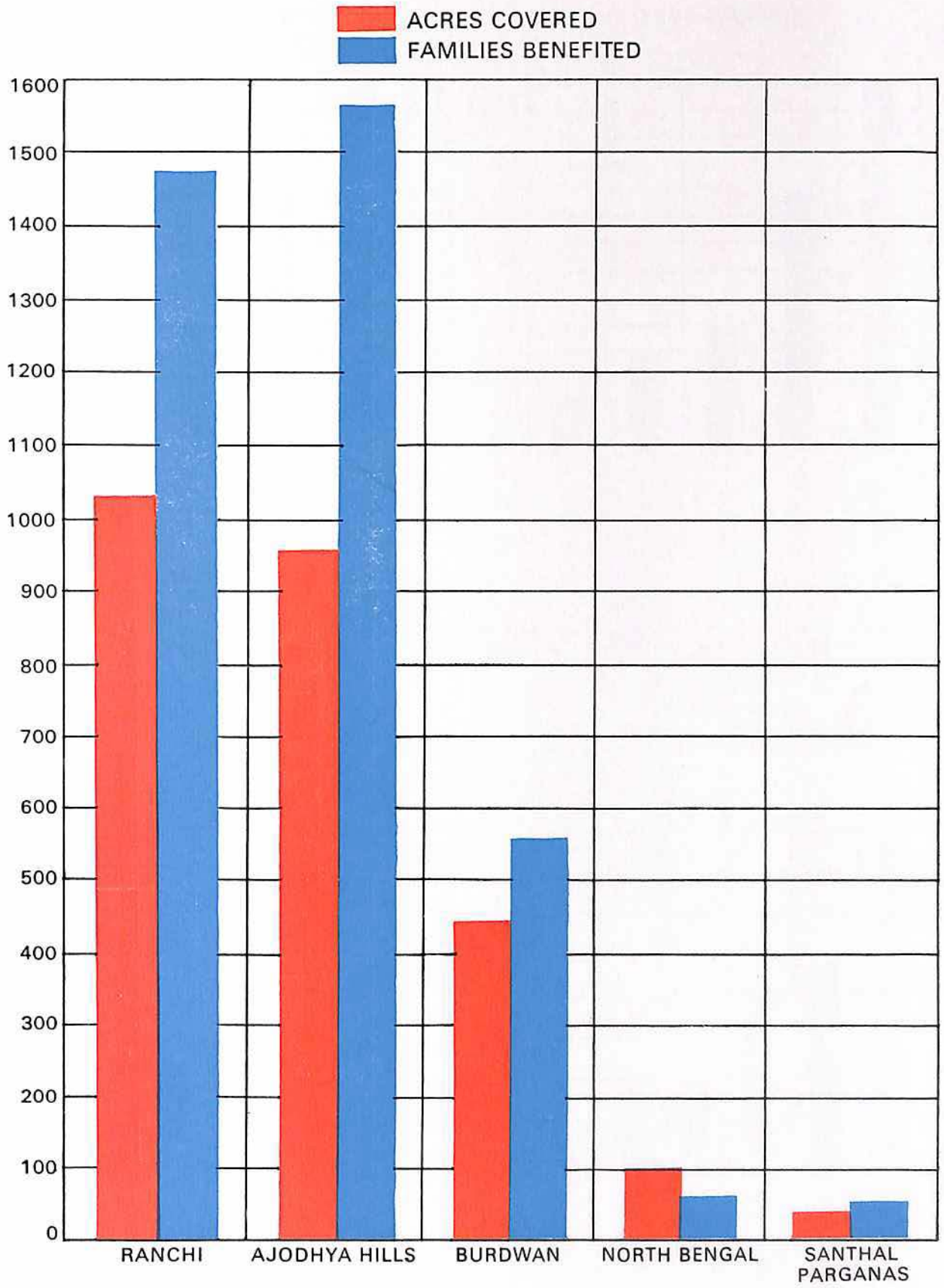
WEST BENGAL—POPULATION AT A GLANCE

TOTAL POPULATION 44,400,000

OUTER CIRCLE-POPULATION
CENTRE CIRCLE-SCHEDULED CASTE
INNER CIRCLE-SCHEDULED TRIBE

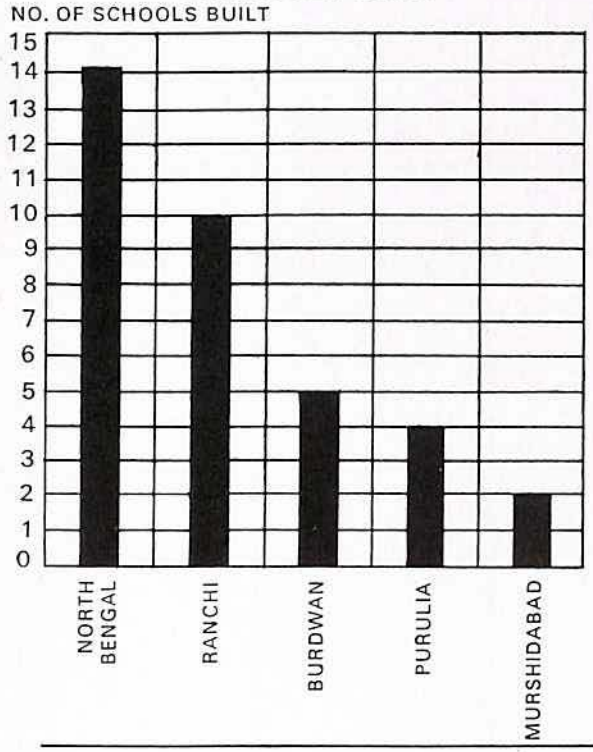


AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMME

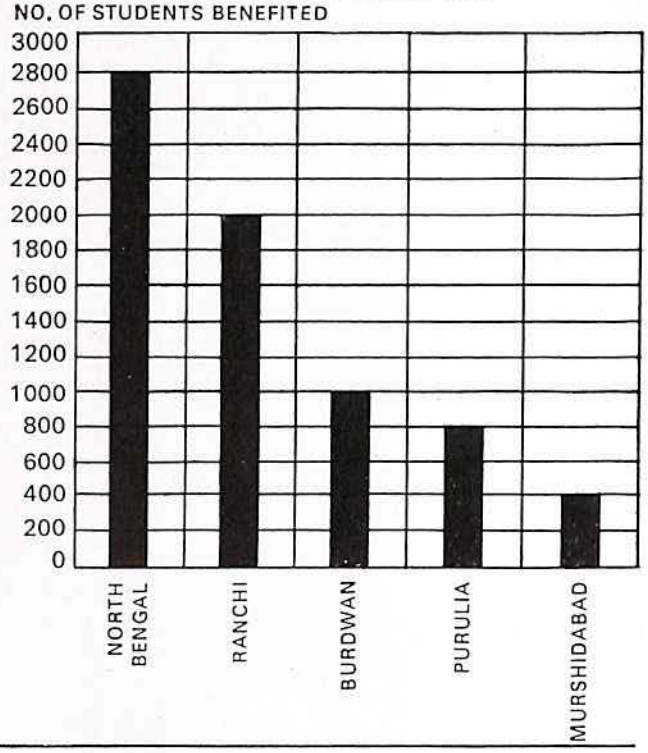


EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

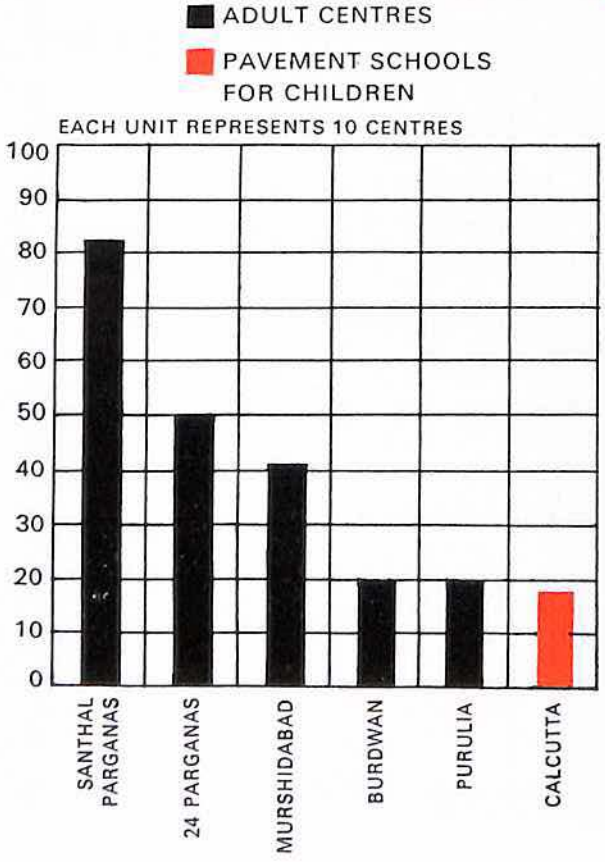
SCHOOLS BUILT

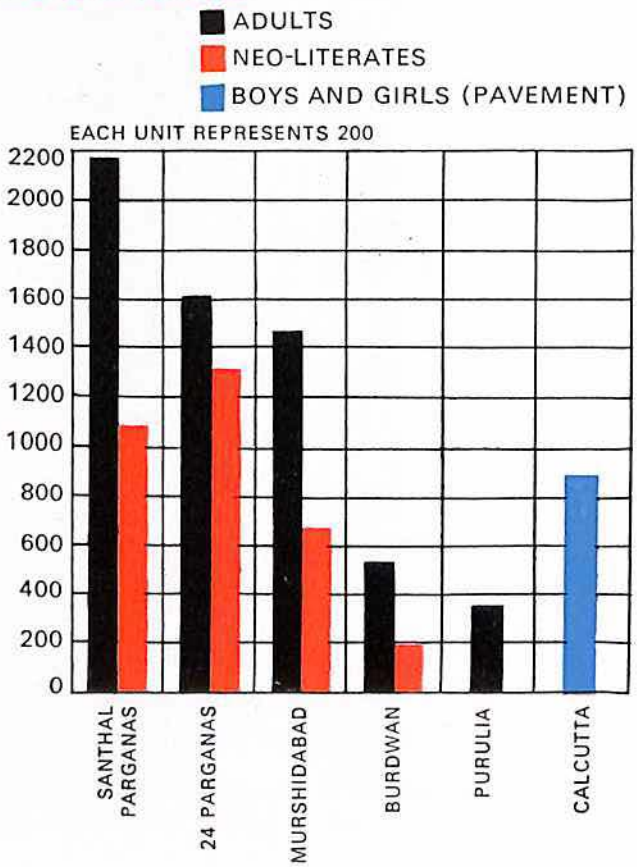


STUDENTS BENEFITED

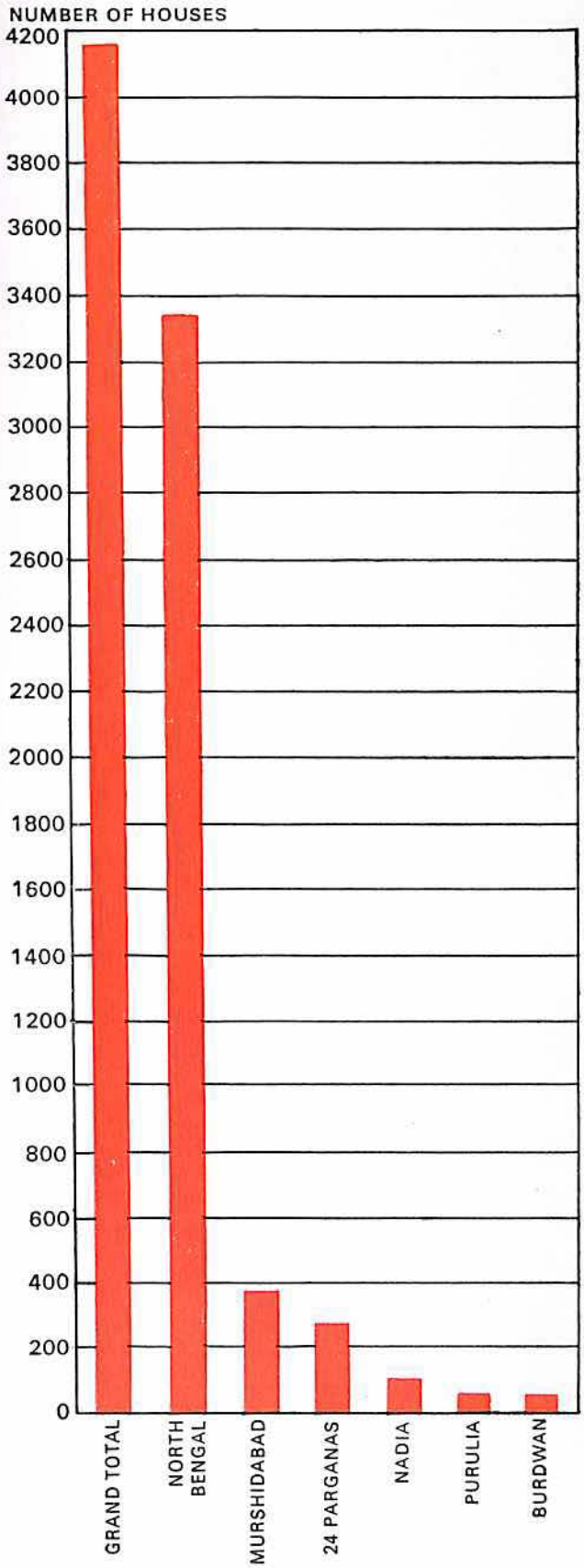


LITERACY PROGRAMME

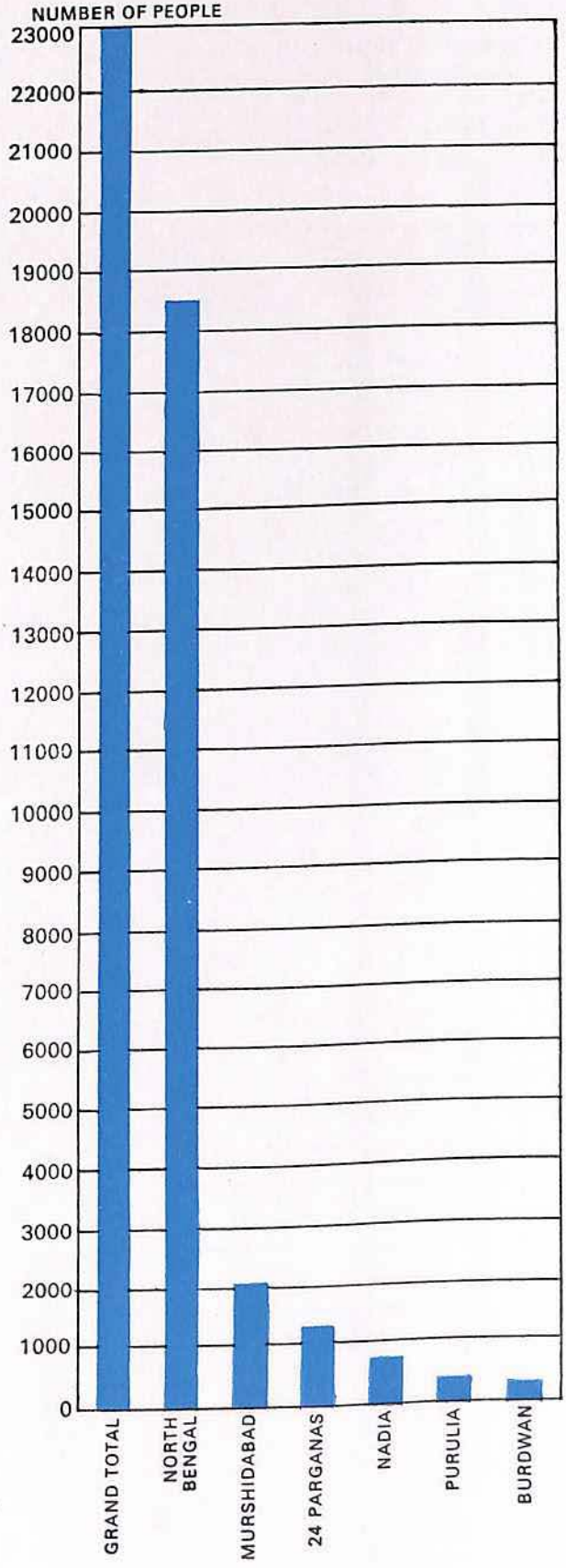




HOUSING RESETTLEMENT

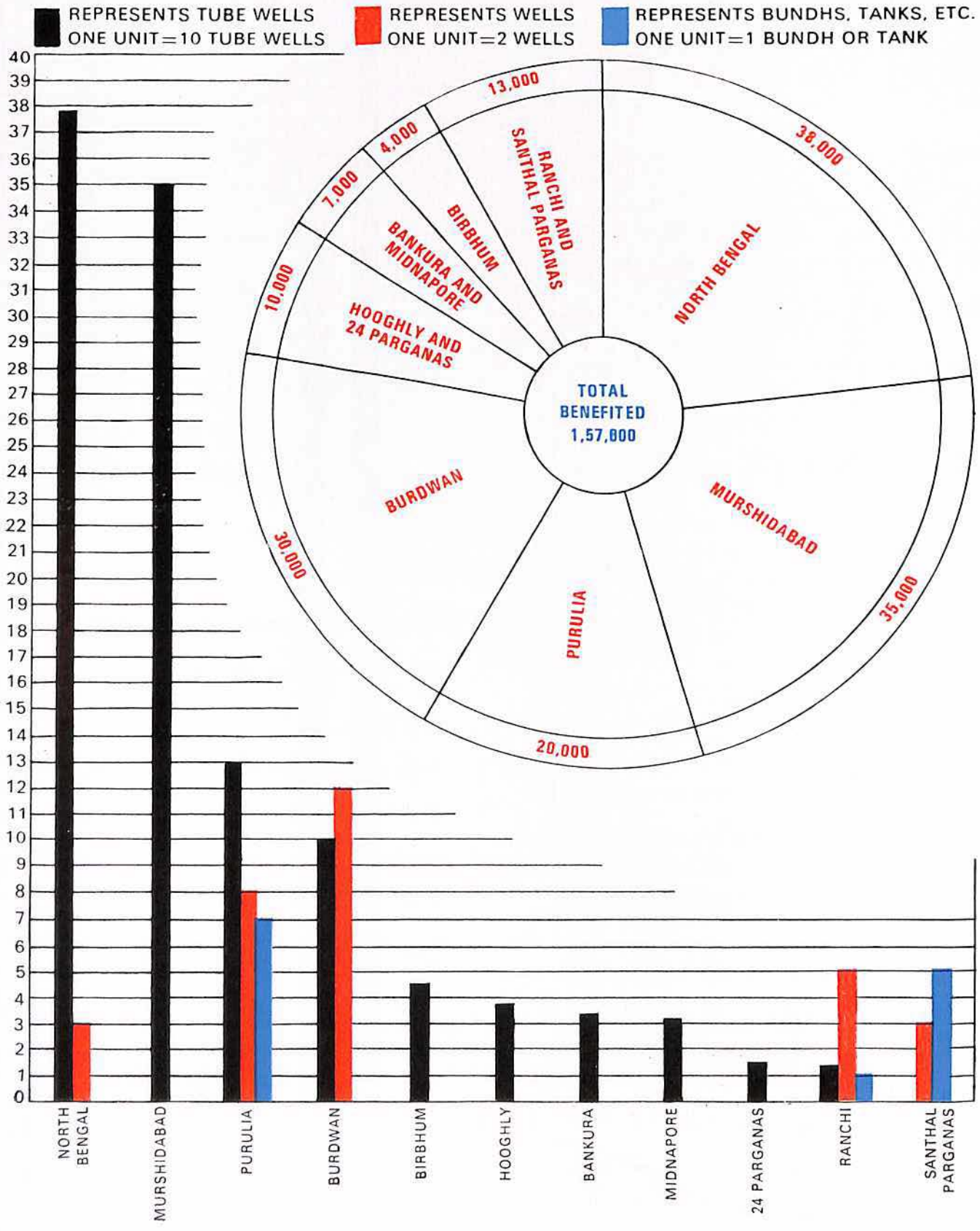


BENEFICIARIES

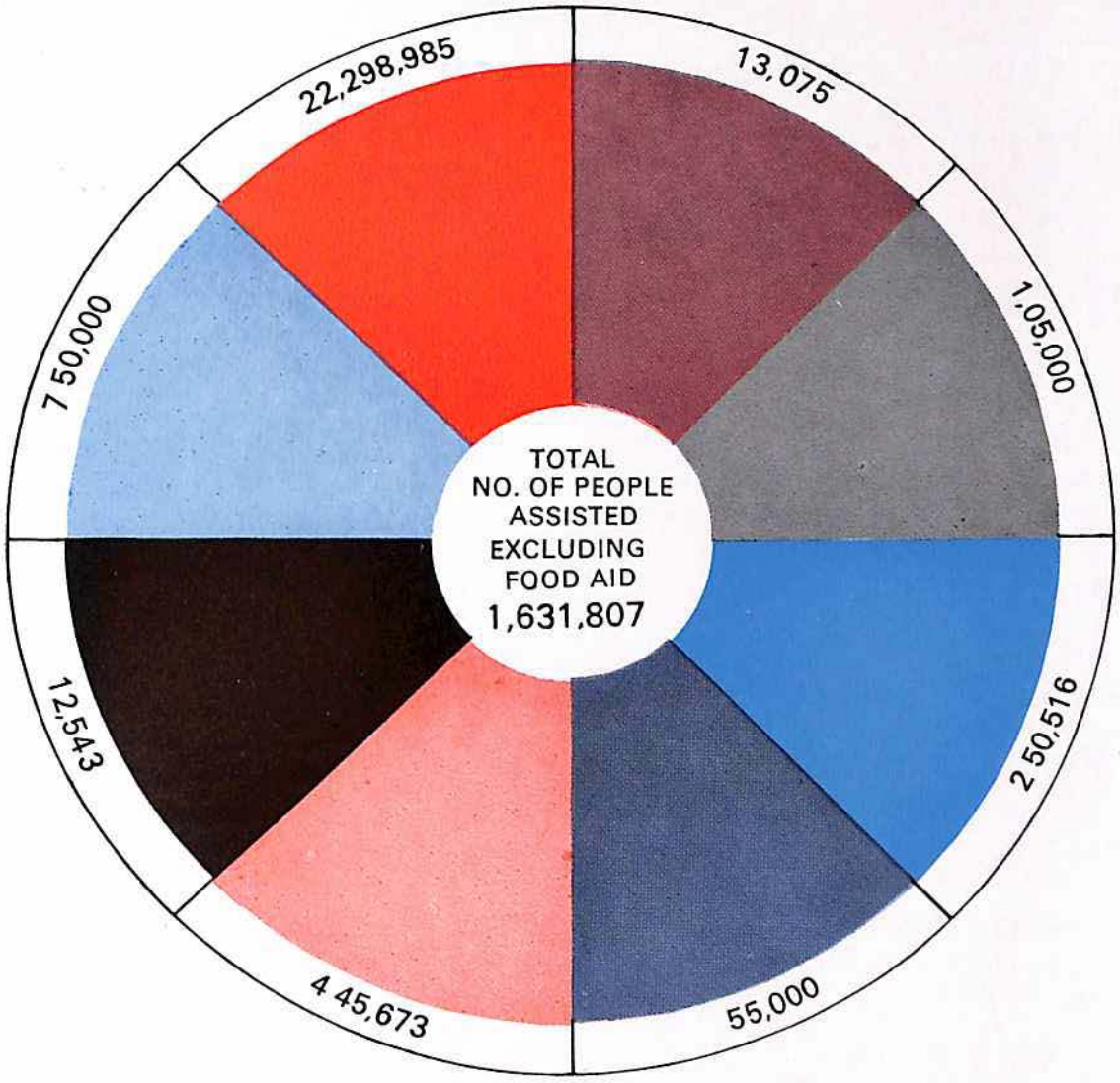


WATER SUPPLY

TUBE WELLS, OPEN WELLS, BUNDHS, TANKS, ETC.



EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN ANDHRA PRADESH, TAMIL NADU, BIHAR AND WEST BENGAL



- HOUSING 13,075 BENEFITED
- TEMPORARY SHELTER 105,000 BENEFITED
- CLOTHING & BLANKETS 250,516 BENEFITED
- UTENSILS 55,000 BENEFITED
- MEDICAL & WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS 445,673 BENEFITED
- SEED ASSISTANCE 12,543 BENEFITED
- WATER SUPPLY 750,000 BENEFITED
- FOOD AID 22,298,985 DISTRIBUTED

LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE

I N D I A.

1978 STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN RUPEES

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION	...	Rs. 653,213.70
HOUSING RESETTLEMENT	...	5,783,296.01
DRINKING WATER SUPPLY	...	56,251.47
RURAL COMMUNITY SELF-HELP	...	71,869.17
BURDWAN PROJECTS	...	1,602,049.86
AJODHYA HILLS PROJECTS	...	1,464,619.74
CALCUTTA PROJECTS	...	2,756,905.54
NORTH BENGAL PROJECTS	...	1,486,720.27
MURSHIDABAD PROJECTS	...	548,738.85
SUNDARBAN PROJECTS	...	134,643.14
RANCHI PROJECTS	...	2,060,790.90
SANTAL PARGANAS PROJECTS	...	1,731,097.86
EMERGENCY PROVISION	...	1,028,413.44
DISTRIBUTION OF DONATED COMMODITIES		243,845.52
ANDHRA PRADESH CYCLONE RELIEF	...	4,440,734.78
BIHAR EMERGENCY	...	243,841.33
WEST BENGAL FLOOD EMERGENCY	...	5,840,000.00
PRODUCTION CENTRE	...	641,942.40
SERICULTURE & MEDICINAL PLANTS	...	299,557.65
NORWEGIAN WHEAT 420812.81 + 534,319.99		955,132.80
WATER RESOURCES PROJECT (PURULIA) -472,179.79 + 390,284.95	...	862,464.74
WATER RESOURCES PROJECT		409,873.49
MURSHIDABAD FLOOD RELIEF	...	215,297.81
T O T A L ...	...	Rs. 33,531,310.47

ARC/pcj.

LWS EXECUTIVE STAFF

HEAD OFFICE, CALCUTTA

Director	:	Dr. Olav Hodne
Deputy Director	:	V. S. C. Bonarjee
Finance Administrator	:	L. Thybell
Programme Secretary	:	S. J. Nathan
Medical Administrator	:	Dr. K. S. Ray
Seminar Organiser	:	T. K. Ray

EMERGENCY & REHABILITATION UNIT

Co-ordinating Officer	:	P. Kennel
Emergency Officer	:	P. C. Joseph

PROGRAMME AREAS (DEVELOPMENT)

Adult Literacy Programme	:	P. C. Sarkar, Chief Organiser
Burdwan	:	J. Simon, Field Administrator
Calcutta, Murshidabad/Nadia	:	V. S. C. Bonarjee, Field Administrator
Community Health Work	:	Dr. D. P. Sen, Community Health Organiser
North Bengal	:	S. C. Roy, Field Administrator
Purulia (Ajodhya Hills)	:	T. K. Ray, Field Administrator
Ranchi	:	S. A. B. D. Hans, Field Administrator
Water Resources Project	:	S. J. Nathan, Administrator

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